

1     **ATOMIC-10**

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3                   **STRAP CONNECTING BUCKLE**

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6                   **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

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9       A one-hand operated strap buckle capable of withstanding high  
10     forces and yet simple to operate and easily connected to a post  
11     and disconnected from a post. In a preferred embodiment, the  
12     buckle comprises upper and lower cases, the latter forming a slot  
13     for receiving a post with a flat head. When connected to a post,  
14     the buckle is secured to the post by a pair of swing arms  
15     terminating at locking hooks. The position of the swing arms is  
16     normally closed, but may be readily altered to an open position  
17     by a pair of opposed spring-loaded release tabs which when  
18     compressed toward one another, open the swing arms and separate  
19     the locking hooks. The buckle of the invention also comprises a  
20     strap release which is spring-loaded and normally engages the  
21     teeth of a strap by employing a spring-loaded catch which can be  
22     rotated away from the strap with tilting of the strap release  
23     around a fulcrum bearing. The locking hooks of the preferred  
24     embodiment, when in their locked position, assure a secure  
25     connection to the post which connection can withstand very high  
26     forces. Yet the locking hooks are easily separated when it is  
27     desired to release the strap from the post by simply squeezing  
28     the release tabs towards one another.